

Senate Bill No. 477

CHAPTER 377

An act to add Section 8687.7 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State September 29, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 477, Soto. Emergency services: recovery process.

Existing law, the Disaster Assistance Act, requires that the Director of the Office of Emergency Services provide financial assistance to local agencies for public real property that is damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

This bill would authorize the office to establish a model process that would be made available to assist a community in recovering from an emergency proclaimed by the Governor and would provide that the process may consider, among other things, the role of the office as an advisor and facilitator for the community recovery process, procedures to provide that the office has representation onsite as soon as practicable after the Governor proclaims a state of emergency, the role of the office to facilitate the use of temporary services, the role of the office to facilitate the establishment of temporary structures, including local assistance centers, showers and bathroom facilities, and temporary administrative offices, and measures to encourage the participation of nongovernmental organizations in the community recovery process to supplement recovery activities undertaken by federal or local agencies.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8687.7 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8687.7. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Community" means a geographic area impacted by an emergency proclaimed by the Governor that includes the jurisdiction of one or more local agencies.

(2) "Community recovery partners" means local, state, and federal agencies, private nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental agencies, faith-based organizations, and other private entities.

(b) The office may establish a model process that would be made available to assist a community in recovering from an emergency

proclaimed by the Governor. The model process may include the following:

- (1) The role of the office in the community recovery process.
- (2) Procedures for the office to have representation onsite as soon as practicable after the Governor proclaims a state of emergency.
- (3) The role of the office to facilitate the use of temporary services, including, but not limited to, direct assistance to individuals, families, and businesses, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance, food and clothing vouchers, communications systems, replacement of personal identification documents, provision of potable water, housing, farm service assistance, tax relief, insurance, and legal services.
- (4) The role of the office to facilitate the establishment of temporary structures, including local assistance centers, showers and bathroom facilities, and temporary administrative offices.
- (5) Measures to encourage the participation of nongovernmental organizations in the community recovery process to supplement recovery activities undertaken by federal or local agencies.
- (6) The office may refer the model process to the standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Advisory Board, or any other advisory board it deems appropriate, for review and modifications.
- (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that the model process assists and complements local procedures. The model process should allow the office to offer additional assistance when that assistance is needed but not available through local agencies.